

**Testimony of
Eugene Goldstein
Congressional Anti-Terrorist Financing Task Force Forum
October 17, 2005**

Congresswoman Kelly, and Members of Congress, thank you for inviting me to participate in this forum.

My name is Eugene Goldstein. I am a longtime resident of the State of New York. I am here today as both a victim of a terrorist attack, and the father of a son who was killed in a terrorist attack.

In the summer of 2003, my wife, Lorraine, and I went to Israel to attend our grandson's wedding. We were also celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. On June 20, 2003, my son, Howard, was driving to Jerusalem to celebrate Shabbat with family and friends. While we were driving two men opened fire on our car. Howard was shot in the chest, and slumped over the steering wheel, dying almost immediately.

I was shot twice in the back, and once in the head and shoulder, but somehow I was able to steer the car for over 6 miles until it ultimately overturned in a ditch.

I still have bullet fragments in my chest and back. Every three months I undergo X-rays to monitor the condition of the fragments. Even today, I still need physical therapy for the injuries to my back.

Lorraine was also shot in the attack. Lorraine was struck by two bullets that entered her body through her back. One bullet grazed her carotid artery and lodged in her jawbone. She still has bullet fragments in her back, and requires physical therapy to cope with her injuries. Because of the bullet lodged in her jawbone, Lorraine has had numerous procedures in her mouth and on her teeth.

HAMAS claimed responsibility for the shooting attack that killed Howard and injured Lorraine and me.

We were among the first families to bring suit against Arab Bank in July 2004. My wife and I got involved not because we know a lot about terror. We did it because we felt we needed to do something, because we didn't want to feel like victims. If the allegations against Arab Bank prove to be true – and I believe they will be – these guys have got to be stopped. The closing of the NY branch and the \$24 million dollar fine by the Treasury appear to be clear signs that there is smoke and probably fire here. Put simply, no bank that does business in the civilized world can be allowed to service HAMAS or other terrorist organizations or to provide a reward or incentive program to the people who murdered my son and shot me and my wife. As far as we know, the incentive program is still in place and that means that the men who killed my son are still eligible to receive money if they're killed or captured or wounded.

I'm not a banker so I can't tell you how important Arab Bank's New York branch is, but what we're talking about is a complex, far-reaching incentive program for mass murder. How can any civilized society allow these folks to stay in business if this is true? Gary Osen and the team of lawyers working on my case are going forward with our civil case and that's fine. A jury will decide on that sort of thing, but what about the government? What about the Treasury, the FBI, the Justice Department? They've got to know more about this than I do. If we're right and this kind of insurance for terrorists is in place, how can America or any other democratic country let these guys still do business in their countries? What does that say about how we value human life, my son's life, and the lives of other American citizens murdered by terrorists?

I support the President's efforts to fight terrorism and I support the War on Terror. I'm not saying it's easy to fight the actual terrorists in Afghanistan, Iraq or Gaza, but if we don't show that we're serious about the people who bankroll the terrorists, I'm afraid all those other brave efforts won't amount to much.

Thank you.